

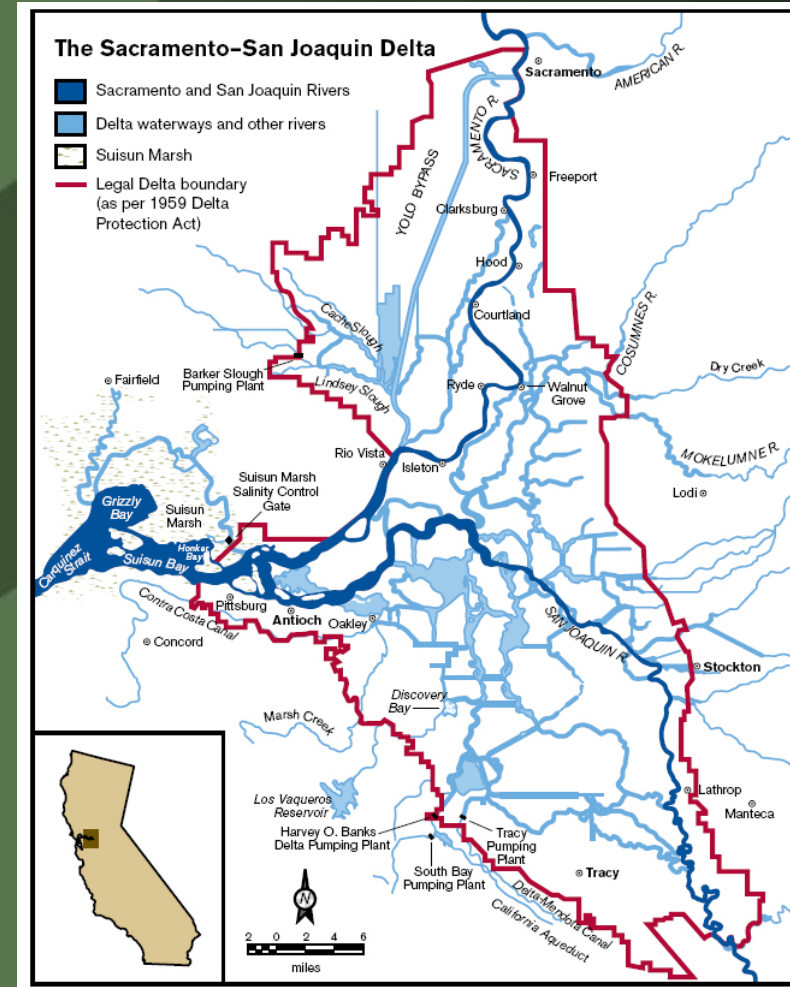
**An Overview of the  
Bay-Delta Conservation Plan  
CALFED Water Supply Subcommittee Meeting  
March 12, 2008**

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# What is the BDCP?

- An applicant driven effort, under FESA and NCCPA, to provide for the conservation of listed fish species in the Delta and improve the reliability of the water supply system within a stable regulatory framework.
- BDCP will be comprised of an HCP and likely an NCCP



# What is an HCP/NCCP?



- HCP = Habitat Conservation Plan (FESA)
- NCCP = Natural Community Conservation Plan (California NCCPA)
- Coordinated, regional conservation plans prepared for the purpose of obtaining long-term permits from the federal and State fisheries agencies.

# Who is involved with BDCP?

- The Applicants, aka PREs (Potentially Regulated Entities): DWR, USBR, Mirant Energy, State and Federal Water Contractors
- Contra Costa Water District
- The Fish and Wildlife Agencies: DFG, USFWS, NOAA Fisheries
- The NGOs: Nature Conservancy, American Rivers, Natural Heritage Institute, Environmental Defense, Defenders of Wildlife, California Farm Bureau, and The Bay Institute
- The Resources Agency, acting as the Steering Committee Facilitator

# What's the Purpose of the BDCP?

- Provides a comprehensive set of solutions to address the range of problems affecting the Delta ecosystem along with a reliable funding mechanism
- FESA/CESA compliance including long-term permits from the fisheries agencies
- Assurance that future ESA listings will not result in additional environmental regulation and mitigation.

# How does BDCP relate to Delta Vision?

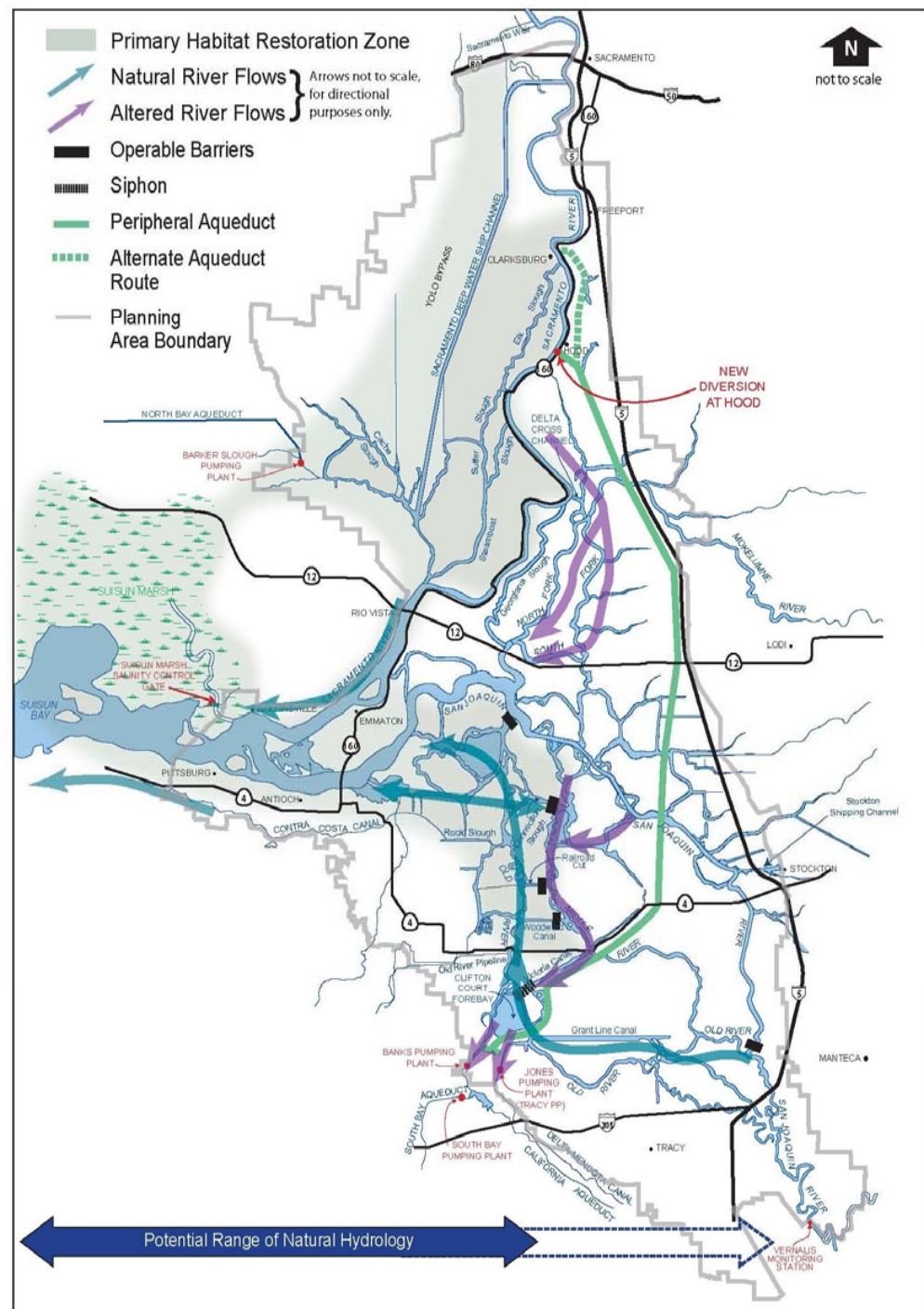
- BDCP is habitat focused while Delta Vision has a much broader scope
- BDCP will likely serve to implement some Delta Vision ecosystem recovery recommendations
- BDCP is closely coordinating its work with the work of Delta Vision







- BDCP has identified Dual-Conveyance as the most promising approach from both ecological, conservation and water supply perspectives
- The full range of design and operational scenarios will be evaluated



# What's been Accomplished?

- Planning Agreement and MOA (2006)
- Draft Covered Species (Oct. 2006)
- Draft Covered Activities (May 2007)
- Options Evaluation Report (Sept. 2007)
- Independent Science Advisors Report (Nov. 2007)
- Points of Agreement for Continuing into the Planning Process (Nov. 2007)



# SWP Covered Activities

- Activities associated with delivering water from SWP Delta facilities.
- SWP water deliveries: Table A, Article 21, Article 55
- Drought water bank and other water deliveries
- Water supply facilities and operations
- Other Delta facilities: Skinner, south Delta barriers
- Maintenance activities
- Ongoing and future projects
- Monitoring activities
- JPOD



# BDCP Proposed Covered Species

- Central Valley steelhead
- Central Valley Chinook salmon (spring run & fall/late-fall runs)
- Sacramento River Chinook salmon (winter run)
- Delta smelt
- Green and white sturgeon
- Splittail
- Longfin smelt

## Other species under consideration

- Swainson's hawk
- Bank swallow
- Giant garter snake
- Valley elderberry longhorn beetle



USFWS Photo

# Where are we in the Process?

## BDCP Working Groups

- Analytical Tools Team
- Conveyance Work Group
- Biological Goals and Objectives Work Group
- Habitat Restoration Program Technical Team
- Governance Work Group
- Other Conservation Measures Technical Team
- Public Outreach Subcommittee

## Other Activities

- Existing Ecological Conditions Report
- NOI, NOP, and Scoping

# Analytical Tools Team

**Purpose:** To develop recommendations regarding analytical tools and analyses that would be useful for the development and evaluation of the BDCP

**Team will consider three functional categories of analytical tools:**

- Tools that could be employed in 2008 for development of the BDCP
- Tools that could be used to evaluate and assess the sufficiency of the BDCP in meeting ESA and NCCPA permitting requirements
- Tools that would be useful for implementation of the BDCP

# Conveyance Work Group

**Overall Purpose:** To develop, analyze, and recommend proposed actions related to conveyance systems and their operations

**Tasks to be completed by June 30, 2008:**

- Consider proposed physical changes for new diversion and conveyance location
- Consider proposed changes for existing SWP & CVP diversions
- Review model assumptions
- Develop range of operating criteria for evaluation
- Conduct new model runs with revised ranges of criteria and assumptions
- Make recommendations on long-term dual conveyance implementation
- Evaluate operating criteria and assumptions for near-term implementation



# Biological Goals and Objectives Work Group

**Principle charge:** The development and refinement of the overall biological goals and objectives for the BDCP that will address the needs of covered species and their habitats to satisfy the requirements of the ESA and NCCPA

- Will focus on overarching goals and objectives for BDCP
- Specific conservation measures, including performance standards and metrics, will be developed by the specific working groups assigned to developing substantive BDCP elements
- There will be a continual iterative process between Biological Goals and Objectives Work Group and other BDCP work groups resulting in mutual influence between the overarching goals and objectives and the specific performance measures and metrics that are developed

# Habitat Restoration Program

## Technical Team

**Core Assignment:** To further develop the opportunities for a habitat restoration program both in the near and long term and to formulate recommendations for such a program that can be further evaluated from a financial, ecological, and feasibility perspective.

- Phased strategy anticipated
- Initial efforts focused on areas with the greatest near-term conservation benefits
- Other efforts may await the completion of new conveyance facilities

# Governance Work Group

**Core charge:** To formulate recommendations on how to organize the institutional mechanisms and assignment of responsibilities for implementing the BDCP

**Governance entity responsibilities will include:**

- Conservation measures
- Adaptive management and monitoring program
- Plan funding
- Oversight and reporting

# Other Conservation Measures

## Technical Team

**Core charge:** To evaluate and develop conservation actions designed to help address a number of stressors on covered species other than water conveyance facilities and operations

**Other stressors include:**

- Invasive species
- Exposure to contaminants
- Harvest
- Entrainment at non SWP/CVP facilities
- Reduced genetic diversity and integrity
- Effects of climate change

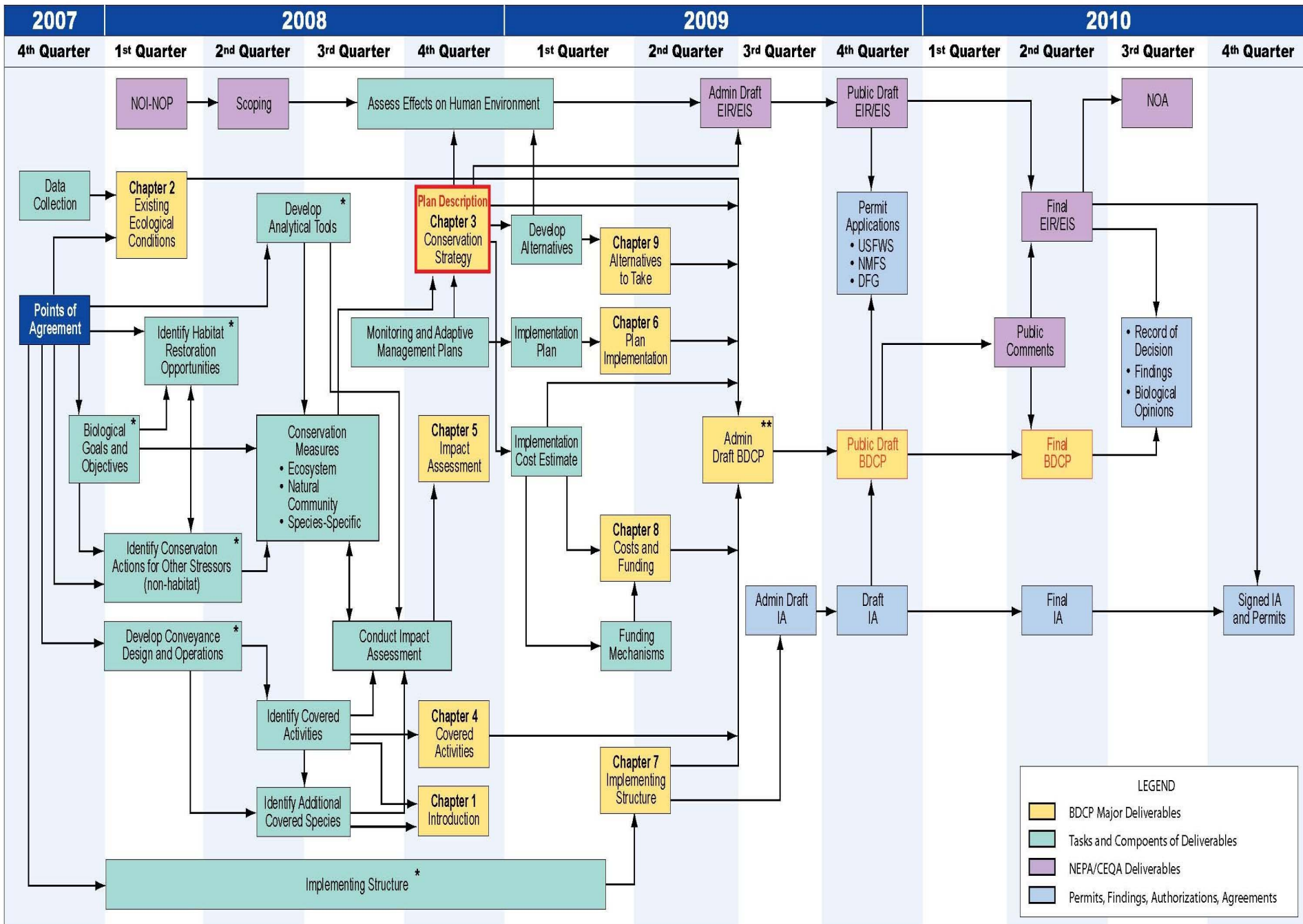
# Public Outreach Subcommittee

**Goal:** To implement an outreach program that sustains an open and transparent process; meets NCCPA, CEQA, and NEPA requirements; raises awareness; improves mutual understanding; builds trust; identifies issues; and sustains momentum

- Jones and Stokes Associates contracted to conduct public outreach for BDCP
- NOI published in Federal Register January 24, 2008
- NOP will be made public soon



# BDCP Development Process and Schedule





# Questions?

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